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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/033,970	12/20/2001	Karl Hansen	24,954-25	9112

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EXAMINER

COTTINGHAM, JOHN R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2116

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/033,970

Applicant(s)

HANSEN, KARL

Examiner

John R. Cottingham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6,10,11,13,14 and 20-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 20-24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-6,10,11,13 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 21-24 withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species in Fig. 14, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 2/20/03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 10-11, and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lin U.S. Patent Application 2002/0122712. Lin shows all of the claimed subject matter of an apparatus for coupling in Figures 2-7. The examiner made a mistake in the last action and inserted 102(a) instead of 102(e).

Regarding claim 1, an apparatus for coupling comprising: a first generally planar member 5 having a pair of generally opposed surfaces and an aperture 54 therebetween disposed at an engaging region; a coupling member 4 having an external

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thread set and having a complementary portion 58 for engaging the aperture of the planar member; and a non-planar member 7 having an internal thread set adapted to engage the external thread set of the coupling member thereby connecting the non-planar member to the first planar member, wherein portions of the pair of generally opposed surfaces of the planar member extend into the thread set of the non-planar member.

Regarding claim 3, wherein the aperture 54 is formed in a region adjacent an edge portion of the first planar member.

Regarding claim 5, wherein the aperture is a slot.

Regarding claim 6, wherein the coupling member has a larger diameter dimension than a thickness dimension of the first planar member.

Regarding claim 10, an apparatus for connecting two members together comprising: a first member 5 having a pair of centrally opposed major surfaces and defining an engaging region, and a slot 54 disposed at said engaging region; an elongate threaded coupling member 4 having an external thread set and an engaging portion 58 for engaging the slot of the first member, said threaded coupling member removably engaging the slot; and a second member 7 having an internal thread set sized to cooperate with the external thread set of the threaded coupling member, wherein said external thread set of the threaded coupling member is threadedly received within the internal thread set, wherein portions of the first member extend into the internal thread set of the second member.

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Regarding claim 11, wherein the elongate threaded coupling member 4 is two longitudinal portions of a threaded shank each having a threaded exterior surface and a substantially flat interior surface.

Regarding claim 13, wherein the thickness of the first member is less than a diameter of the internal thread set.

Regarding claim 14, an apparatus for joining two members via a threaded coupling member, said apparatus comprising: a first member 5 having an aperture 54 disposed proximate an edge; an elongate threaded coupling member having an external thread set 40 and an engaging portion 58 corresponding to the aperture of the first member, said threaded coupling member removably engaging the aperture and extending away from the edge of the first member 6, and a second member 7 having an internal thread set sized to cooperate with the external thread set of the threaded coupling member, said internal thread set operatively receiving a portion of both the external thread set of the threaded coupling member and a portion of the first member to secularly bind the first member to the second member.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin U.S. Patent 6,474,920. Lin does not show more than one aperture 54 and connector 58.

However, duplicating the components of a prior art device is a design consideration within the skill of the art. In re Harza, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 1/13/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Lin U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0122712 cannot be used under 102(a), however the examiner made a mistake and it should have been rejected under 102(e) and the same rejection still applies. Also the Lin U.S. Patent 6,474,920 can be applied with the same rejection under either 102(a) or 102(e).

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

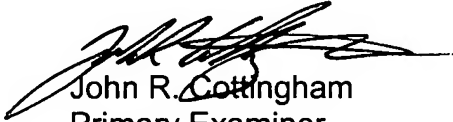
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John R. Cottingham whose telephone number is (571)

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272-7079. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynne Browne can be reached on (571)272-3670. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


John R. Cottingham
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2116

jrc